

# The Free Trader.

Ottawa, Ill., Saturday, March 9, 1878.

## OUR CLUBBING.

We are prepared to club the FREE TRADER with the following publications, furnishing both at the prices named, postage prepaid. The offer—open to old subscribers or new at any post office in the county—is the CHEAPEST EVER MADE in this county:

FREE TRADER and Chicago Weekly Times	\$2.65
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All subscriptions as above must be strictly in advance. Remittances may be made by money order or registered letter, or by express at the sender's cost.

Franklin J. Moses, ex-governor of South Carolina, writes a long communication to the New York Sun of the 2d inst., in which he details how the South Carolina returning board, on footing up the election returns of that state in 1876, found that Tilden had honestly carried the state by about one thousand majority, and how they employed Thomas C. Dana, one of their number, to change the returns, adding to the Hayes vote in several republican counties sufficiently to work up a majority against Tilden. While there is no question as to the rascally character of the returning board in question, what can you prove against them by the testimony of a man like F. J. Moses?

The California legislator is hard upon the heathen Chinese. Some time ago a law was passed compelling all Chinamen arrested for petty offenses to have their noses cut off, and recently a bill has been agreed upon prohibiting the exhuming of bodies for exportation to China. These measures are suggested by the religious prejudices of the Celestial, who believes that his chances for happiness in the future are somewhat dependent upon the possession of his pigtail, and the repose of his bones in the Flowery Kingdom.

Wm. Gooding, Esq., well known by our people from his long connection with the Illinois & Michigan canal, of which he was chief engineer during its construction, died at Lockport on Monday, aged 75 years. After the completion of the canal in 1848 he was appointed secretary of the board of canal trustees, which position he held until the expiration of the trust in 1871. He was born in Ontario county, New York, but had lived in Illinois since 1833.

The wealthier and better portion of the village of Hot Springs, in Arkansas, where its famous hot springs are located, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday. Over a thousand people are made homeless and destitute by the calamity, which involved the destruction of a million's worth of property. The fire broke out in a negro shanty where a party of revelers were assembled and was caused by the upsetting of a kerosene lamp.

Kate Claxton, the actress, whose divorce from Mr. Dore Lyon by a New Jersey court was lately announced, was married last Sunday at "the little church around the corner" in New York to Charles Stevenson, a member with Kate of Wallack's dramatic company. Stevenson is the man with whom Dore Lyon had a serious altercation at the Sherman house, Chicago, at the time when Miss Claxton and Mr. Stevenson were appearing in the same drama at Haverly's theatre.

Some villain incarnate entered the office of the Princeton (Ill.) Tribune one night last week and dumped the type out of some twenty cases into a pile in the middle of the floor. It will take about two weeks steady work to restore the type to their cases. What is stranger is that the editor has not the slightest suspicion as to the author of or motive for the mischief.

W. Hector Gale, lately of the Streater Pioneer, is now duly installed as editor of the Sheridan Newsletter. Mr. Whitney, in making the announcement, gently reminds us of Gale's exceptional personal comeliness by adding: "We never thought of creating excitement by his coming, but when it takes four young ladies to buy five cents worth of paper we begin to think we had better have an investigating committee."

Hon. Benjamin F. Wade—"bluff old Ben Wade"—died on Saturday last at his home at Jefferson, Ohio, after an illness of about four weeks. He was born at Springfield, Mass., in 1800, and was therefore about 78 years of age. With rather a limited education and thin purse he had gone to Ohio when but 22 years of age, settling in the "Western Reserve." His indomitable energy and pluck was such, however, that his defects of education were overcome and at the age of 28 he was admitted to the bar as a lawyer, a profession in which he soon took and always held a high rank. He engaged early and earnestly in politics, and held almost every position in turn from county attorney up to U. S. Senator. His political career, however, was so eventful and conspicuous that it would take up too much space to recall it. Though generally extreme in his ideas, his personal integrity was never questioned, and while he may have cherished many errors there will be no dissent from the verdict that they were more of the head than the heart.

The Hoopesdown Chronicle says "Plant your eggs—Easter Sunday 31st." Where's your almanac, old fellow?

The Marselles printer, who got the contract for printing 30,000 blanks for the county at about what the white paper ought to cost, concluded, on consideration, to throw it up and let the next biggest rat have it.

## HON. W. A. STEEL FOR CONGRESS.

While this congressional district is indubitably republican by from 1500 to 2000 majority, there is hardly a candid republican but is ready to admit that the party has no available timber in it that is fit for the office. To prove it one need only refer to the present incumbent, and to state that the best timber the party in the district have to offer as his successor are such men as Jim Goodspeed, Wm. Cullen, O. A. Marshall and that class of precinct bunnies.

This is an "off" year. Old political issues are comparatively worn out and laid aside. The war is over—the southern question settled—the negro has found his place—flaunting the bloody shirt no longer inflames northern ire like shaking red flannel at the untamed bull. The live issues of the day relate to currency, finance, tariff, cheap transportation and improvement of our great western water ways, and these are questions about which the contest is not between democrats and republicans, but between dead capital and live enterprise; between monopoly and free labor; between eastern capital and western production;—in a word, between eastern greed and western progress and enterprise.

The men for the west to send to congress, then, are not democrats or republicans, but men of western ideas—representative men of western enterprise and business courage and mental grasp. Nineteenth of the voters say they care nothing about politics—they want MEN. The west has been tributary to the east too long. Our farms are covered by eastern mortgages at exorbitant rates of interest; we pay millions of tribute annually to eastern insurance companies; and a moiety of what with painful labor the west annually digs out of the ground is paid to eastern capital to haul it to market. We want men in congress who can cast aside the petty trammels of party politics and grasp and deal with the great problems of labor and transportation.

Who is such a man in this district? The Joliet papers for a week or two have been urging for congress the name of W. A. STEEL. Is he not the man we are looking for? We find in the Chicago Western Manufacturer for January a sketch of Mr. Steel, from which we make an extract:

When 19 years old Mr. Steel was engaged on the construction of the Northern Missouri R. R. In 1857, he came to Joliet and entered the service of Messrs. Sanger & Casey who were contractors for building the State penitentiary then in course of construction. The old Alton penitentiary having been leased to the firm in 1858, Mr. Steel was induced to accept the position of deputy warden, with entire charge of the commerce and discipline, and worthily attended to their interests until the removal of the prisoners to Joliet in 1860. Largely owing to his administrative talents, the Alton penitentiary was, during this time, the model of order and healthful discipline, and he had the good fortune to transfer his slippery charge to Joliet without a single casualty. Having meanwhile continued his legal studies, he now entered the law office of Judge Newton D. Strong, at St. Louis, Mo. He was soon admitted to the bar in that city, and in later days was licensed for the Supreme Court of Illinois and the Supreme Court and Court of Claims of the United States. The outbreak of the civil war precluded Mr. Steel from the practice of his profession, but it inspired him with the excellent idea of raising an independent battalion of 450 men for the Union army, whereof he was commissioned commanding officer, with the rank of major. While the war endured, however, his attention was directed to naval matters also, and he constructed four monitors for the general government, besides rendering other valuable service which secured to him the friendship of General Grant.

After the day of Appomattox Mr. Steel again settled in Joliet, and entered at once on the development of the stone resources in its vicinity and also of the coal beds in the Wilmington region, where he was the first to sink mine shafts. Since then, and specially in connection with the first mentioned industry, the onward progress of Joliet has been coincident with that of Mr. Steel. The valuable quarries have won, under his control, universal celebrity, and the most notable structures in the country have been raised from their product. Of these may be instanced the Rock Island arsenal, in which 30,000 car loads of Joliet stone were used, while of public buildings built from the same material are the custom house at Des Moines, Iowa, and the custom house and post office at Madison, Wis. The United States Marine Hospital, at Chicago, the new State Capitol, at Springfield, Ill., and Lansing, Mich., and thirty court houses in the Western States also derived their stone material mainly from the same source. The Joliet quarries, in short, are the chief elements in the prosperity of the city, employing constantly many hundreds of men, and helping along allied industries by the name and fame they have acquired to themselves. In the present year, as we learn, they will be more active than ever, the enterprising owner having increased considerably their productive capacity. The tests made by the United States Government, too, have pronounced the stone to be unrivalled of its kind, and superior in usefulness to many favorite granites now used in building.

To illustrate the spirit and indomitable courage overcome obstacles with which Mr. Steel is gifted, reference may be made to his action in establishing the Joliet Iron and Steel Rolling Mills. In the face of all obstructions, not the least being the governor's veto, he procured from the State legislature, over which the power to enable the city of Joliet (of which he was then mayor) to afford the corporation the means which enabled it to establish itself. These works are now the largest on the continent, and with but two exceptions are the largest in the world.

Five or six years ago Joliet elected Mr. Steel mayor. When he went into office the city had about 6000 population. He held the office four years and at the end of his last term the city boasted a solid population of 19,000.

But no "pent up force" like Joliet contracts the powers or aims of a man like Mr. Steel. From the start his profoundest interest and zeal were enlisted in behalf of the Eads jetties at the mouth of the Mississippi, and now that their brilliant success has justified every anticipation in their behalf, he is enlisted heart and soul with the leading men of the Mississippi valley in urging upon congress the improvement of the rest of our great water ways so as to emancipate our producers and business men from the tribute they pay to the eastern railroad monopolists by opposing to them the rivalry of our great rivers.

We believe Mr. Steel in politics ranks as a democrat. It is manifest, however, that a man of his breadth of views and grand ideas can never be seriously hampered in his action by the slights of the mere partisan. We believe him, therefore, to be one whom the people of this district can conscientiously vote for as a man, aside from considerations of politics. As such, we present his claims for candid consideration and discussion.

## CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The Ottawa Board of Education, at their meeting on Tuesday evening, passed an order that a vote be taken at the next annual election for township school trustees on the second Saturday of April, on the question of establishing a high school for Ottawa Township.

Ottawa having voted a year ago to surrender her special city school charter and organize under the general school law of the state, the question whether the township shall have a high school becomes necessary to be submitted to a vote of the people.

The township is at present divided, we believe, into nine school districts, which are supported by a tax levied upon the whole township, this year amounting to some \$21,000. In maintaining these nine schools we have no doubt the whole tax will be expended. Yet by the same (and even less) expenditure, we have hitherto had the same primary schools and a high school. The high school involves the employment of two or three additional teachers and other items costing in all possibly three or four thousand dollars.

The question is, can Ottawa afford to abandon her high school? We do not believe there is a city in the state of 5000 population and over that has not got its high school. A city of that size is considered low grade and behind the civilization of the age that is without a high school. A number of wealthy farmers have bought property here and moved into town to be able to send their children to our city high school, and hundreds of wealthy farmers all around Ottawa would cheerfully pay a high tuition to get their children into the city high school could room be made for them.

The high school contemplated by our general school law is one in which scholars who enter the common school at seven years of age can graduate at about 16, after which they are ready to be apprenticed to mechanical trades or occupations, enter stores or otherwise upon the active duties of life, or, if they can afford it, prepare for college. Unless intending to follow a professional career, however, a graduate of our high school hitherto has been regarded as having education enough to fit him for any of life's ordinary pursuits except purely professional or literary. But if we do away with the high school, our children at the age of 12 or 14 will have reached the end of their studies and unless their parents happen to be in sufficiently comfortable circumstances to be able to pay for expensive tuition, there is no more education within their reach. Of course, in this view, no poor man of common sense can vote against the high school. The rich who mainly pay the taxes are alone prompted by a self interest to oppose it; but we take satisfaction in knowing that the body of our more wealthy men have too high a regard for the welfare of our people generally and the good name of the town to vote down the high school simply because it draws a trifle annually from their abundance to aid in the education of those who otherwise would be condemned to a life of comparative ignorance because unable to pay their parents were poor.

## CITY FINANCES.

We confess, some two or three weeks ago, when approached by the irrepressible tax gatherer with a demand some 25 per cent. in excess of any taxes we had ever before paid on the same amount of property, we felt indignant and decidedly like pitching into somebody, whoever it might be, that was responsible for this excessive taxation. Naturally, like many others, we jumped to the conclusion that the chief fault lay with our city council, and as they had never given us any reason to be particularly in love with them, we decided to give them an overhauling and raking down. Coming to look up the facts and figures, however, and decidedly taken aback to find that they would bear the closest scrutiny and that in reality the finances of the city had been fully as well and economically managed under the administration of Mayor Nicholson as under any that had preceded it. Especially did it compare favorably with the administration immediately preceding it.

To illustrate this we gave the figures as we found them in the annual statements, roughly, but we believe correctly, and showed that the present council, during its year about to close, really expended some \$2000 less for ordinary city purposes than had been expended during its year by the preceding council.

The Ottawa Republican for some reason grown exceedingly sensitive in regard to the council of two years ago, controverts our figures, and publishes a statement of the expenditures of the present council for all purposes amounting to some \$60,000, including an item of \$19,200 for temporary loans refunded that of course has no business in the statement at all, and otherwise wholly muddled and perverted. Without, however, stopping to analyze that statement and show its true bearing, it is enough for our purpose to say that Mayor Nicholson, in a statement in another column, goes into the figures of the year minutely, and bears out fully what we said, that the ordinary expenditures of the council for the past year have been some \$2000 less than those of the preceding "reform" council.

Yet the city taxes this year have been nearly doubled, and surely this needs explanation. Now the explanation is this: When the present council came into power they found that, besides the ordinary expenses of the city, they had to make provision for an extraordinary debt of nearly \$9000 left over by the preceding "reform" council, and for a city indebtedness of some \$16,500 with interest, falling due during this year.

When M. H. Swift was mayor, he foresaw this indebtedness and began to make provision for it, so that we find when he went out of office he left in the treasury not only \$9,533.74, but had also laid aside \$5,000 as a sinking fund to meet the bonds falling due this April. His plan was that the next council should lay aside the same amount which would have left \$6,500 to be raised for the same purpose by the present council. The next council, however, came in on a "reform" basis and a pledge to reduce taxation. Consequently, instead of pursuing Mayor Swift's plan to add to the sinking fund they not only spent the \$9,533.74 he had left in their hands, but also his sinking fund, and plunged into improvements that car-

ried over a debt of \$9,000 to be paid by the next council out of \$7,164.50 left in their hands. This is exactly what compelled the present council to make an extraordinary levy of some \$18,000 to meet accruing and unavoidable indebtedness.

It is true, the present council might have imitated its predecessor and used the revenues of the year to pay this debt and shoved a debt over on to the next council to pay; but when men like G. W. Jackson, C. S. Phelps and H. J. Logan, who constituted the finance committee, saw such an alternative presented to them they said "No—that would be a shallow dodge if not dishonest. Let us meet the difficulty square in the face. Let us pay the debt honestly and leave enough in the hands of the next council to enable them to proceed with the city's business without embarrassment," and that is just what they did.

## SLOPPY AND STUPID LYING.

It is a small and very despicable business to charge a man with saying what he never did say and then proceed to prove him a liar. But that is exactly the way in which the Rev. Wm. Cullen, of the Ottawa Republican, proceeds to arraign the FREE TRADER for misstatements in regard to the Louisiana returning board rascality and then to disprove them. The FREE TRADER denied that the Louisiana returns were (as Cullen had said) "thoroughly canvassed" in the presence of some of the most eminent men of the country of both parties; but said when it came to "thoroughly canvassing," or deciding and passing upon and footing up said returns—which "thoroughly canvassing" means—that the board always did that in "secret session," and that no eminent men of both parties, at least none of the democratic party, were ever allowed to see that operation. The extract from John Sherman's statement, which the Republican publishes, is therefore not in point—indeed is a dishonest and shallow evasion of the point.

No one questions that the returns were "opened," as John Sherman says, in the presence of the "eminent men," &c., and as thus opened, they footed up a majority of nearly 8000 in favor of Tilden. But that they were thus "canvassed"—settled—decided upon and finally footed up John Sherman nowhere had the hardihood of saying.

There was another peculiarity about these returns as opened "in the presence of eminent men," &c. All of them, except from one or two unimportant parishes, were perfectly regular and in due form, and under the law of Louisiana—from which the returning board derived its only power, no one could attack them unless the foundation was first laid by a statement of an election commissioner or supervisor appended to the return on the day of the election. Yet after these returns were publicly opened and thus found regular and in due form, the board in secret session so changed them that instead of footing up 8000 majority for Tilden they footed up some 6000 majority for Hayes. By the very law under which the returning board pretended to act, this alteration of the returns was a penitentiary offense, and alone fully justified the conviction and punishment of Anderson.

The Rev. Wm. Cullen invents another dirty lie in saying that the FREE TRADER refers to John Sherman as proof that "neither the returns from Vernon or any other parish were opened and canvassed in the presence of eminent men," &c. The FREE TRADER referred to John Sherman only as proof that the forgeries of the Vernon parish returns were committed in the secret session of the board. This Sherman stated distinctly in his speech in the senate, maintaining at the same time that the returns from that parish alone did not affect the general result of the state on President.

When the Rev. Wm. Cullen goes again into the wholesale lying business to bolster up the reputation of scoundrels like the Louisiana returning board it would look better on paper at least if he did it with less sloppish stupidity.

A sickening tragedy occurred near Fiske's Landing, in Monroe county, Ill., on the 3d inst. A man named Moritz Kaiser, with a wife and six children, living on a rented farm, having been refused a renewal of his lease on account of non-payment of rent, and being unable to procure another farm, became desperate and in the night killed his wife and children and then, after carefully laying them out in a row, set fire to the building and lying down in the middle, either took poison or so stupefied himself with liquor, that he was burned with the rest of them. The fire was not checked until all the bodies were badly burned and disfigured, but soon enough to show that all except Kaiser himself had their skulls crushed in and were dead before the fire got to them. The old man's body alone was twisted and distorted, showing that living nerves and muscles had writhed before the blaze. The consuming element had gone too far, however, to tell whether he had inflicted upon himself any injury before he lay down to die.

James Gordon Bennett is not content with solving great geographical problems by the employment and fitting out of Stanley for the job, but has bought the British steamer Pandora and proposes to man and equip it and send it to the north to solve the problems in regard to the north pole and Symmes's hole. He has made application to congress to be allowed to Americanize his vessel sufficiently to allow him to fly the American flag, which of course will be granted. There is a rumor that he proposes to put Stanley at the head of the expedition, but that is hardly probable. Stanley may have all the necessary qualifications for a successful land explorer, but is utterly without experience as a navigator, and could hardly fail to meet with disaster in a region where the highest skill and most thorough experience as a navigator alone can hope to succeed.

N. W. Fuller, Esq., lately connected with the Streater Monitor, has commenced the publication of a new paper at Streater called the National, to champion, as its name indicates, the cause of the new "National" party that recently flung its banner to the breeze at Toledo. Mr. Fuller is a writer of some ability, and his pen now being free and unhampered, we shall look for considerable *rim* and *spice* in the columns of the National.

## From Washington.

### SILVER.

The silver bill having become a law, Sherman promises to see to its faithful execution, and already advertises for bullion and will have the mints ready to coin dollars at the rate of \$3,500,000 a month in two weeks. Among a great deal of other additional legislation proposed in both houses on the silver question the bill of Mr. Cockrell, in the senate, will probably be about the only one to pass. It authorizes any one having silver bullion to deposit it in the treasury and receive certificates for it in sums of \$20, said certificates to be receivable for all public dues, &c., the same as gold certificates.

### POSTAL SAVINGS BANK.

The house banking and currency committee have reported a postal savings bank bill which will probably pass. It provides for receiving deposits from 15 cents up, and the issue on such deposits of bonds from \$10 up, bearing 3.65 per cent. interest, convertible into U. S. 4 per cent. bonds or redeemable on demand, in greenbacks an issue of \$50,000,000 being authorized for that purpose.

The senate, in the same direction, has passed Mr. Wallace's bill for the issue of 4 per cent. 50 year bonds, in sums of \$25 and up.

### PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Mr. Thurman has again got his bill before the senate to compel the U. P. & C. P. railroads to provide a sinking fund to pay their indebtedness to the general government when it falls due. The bill proposes to seize on enough of the net income of the roads to pay current interest and to lay aside a million a year as a sinking fund.

### DOORKEEPER POLK.

The committee that have been investigating the case of doorkeeper Polk, of the house, have aged 11 to 2, to recommend his dismissal for incompetency, and the house will doubtless adopt the recommendation. In that case it is said R. E. Goodell, of Chicago, will probably be elected doorkeeper.

### PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt statement for February shows—

Total bonds outstanding	\$1,727,782,500
" Non-interest paying debt	442,882,124
Total debt	\$2,191,900,380
" in treasury	172,563,921
Debt less amt in treasury	\$2,042,037,129
Decrease since June, 1877	18,121,094

## Foreign News.

### Preliminaries of Peace.

The negotiations between Russia and Turkey at Adrianople were finally brought to a close by the signing of the "preliminaries" of peace on the 3d inst., the terms thus agreed upon being now referable to St. Petersburg for final approval. The treaty contains 29 articles and though not published in full, its substance is made known. The important points are that Turkey is substantially dispossessed of all its European possessions except a part of Roumelia; the borders of Bulgaria, which is erected into an automatic kingdom but made a virtual dependency of Russia, are enlarged so as to extend to the Egean and include Salonica; the Danubian and Bosphorus are to remain neutral; Turkey is to pay an indemnity of 1,410,000,000 roubles (about \$1,000,000,000) but all of it except 310,000,000 to be paid in territorial cessions, said cessions including a large slice of Asia Minor, taking in Batoum and Kars. Servia and Bosnia are independent, and Montenegro and Herzegovina, it is understood, are to be swallowed up by Austria. And soon.

As the Egyptian contingent and the Turkish fleet remain untouched, and the straits continue neutral, England is left without excuse for going to war, and her peace party is jubilant, though the government continues unabated in its war preparations.

The conference, it is understood, is to meet at Berlin about the 25th inst., and will probably be presided over by Bismarck. Only the signatory powers to the treaty of Paris will be allowed to send delegates.

### England.

Willis, Perival & Co., private bankers of 108 years' standing in London, have failed, owing to bad debts.

John Ruskin, the well known writer, has brain fever and is dangerously ill. Lord John Russell is better.

The Grand Orient Lodge of Freemasons of France having eliminated the article of a belief in God from its ritual, the Grande Lodge of England has unanimously passed a resolution refusing to recognize the Orient as Freemasons.

### Italy.

Pope Leo XIII. was crowned in the Sistine chapel at Rome on Sunday. The Italian government sent no military to grace the pageant on the ground of the refusal of its recognition by the pope. Only a few houses were illuminated at night and at these the crowd in the streets broke the windows. Instead of continuing Simeoni as papal prime minister, Cardinal Franchi has been appointed to that dignity. It is noted that the new pope in all his exhortations avoids the mention of the Virgin with the purpose, it is supposed, of discountenancing Mary worship, which his predecessor so long encouraged.

### Spain.

There was great rejoicing in Madrid over the announcement of the surrender of the insurgents in Cuba and a vote of thanks to the generals of the army was immediately adopted.

### Greece.

Gen. Grant and party arrived at Constantinople on the 3d inst., and next day attended a service given in his honor by Mr. Layard, the British minister. The ex-president is expected at Rome on the 15th inst.

The Rev. Wm. Cullen, of the Ottawa Republican, says he offered in "open board" to the supervisors to publish the tax list for just half what the FREE TRADER gets for the job. When, brother Cullen, did you make the offer? Was it any time during those 15 or 20 years during which you annually published the list? By the way, the FREE TRADER was never mean enough to go into the *ret* business and underbid you then. Besides, instead of making your offer to the board of supervisors, why didn't you make it to the city council or board of education? Either had just as much authority to accept your assine proposal as the supervisors.

## HOME MATTERS.

### Personal.

Col. H. A. McCaleb leaves this week for his new home in the west—Kansas, we believe. Albert Hard, of this city, had the good fortune to be in New Orleans this year during the Carnival and to witness the splendid shows of Mardi-Gras, on Tuesday last.

Mr. Wm. Pollock has left Ottawa for his new home in Yankton, Dakota, Ty., having been, as before stated, appointed superintendent of Indian affairs for that immense Territory. He leaves a host of warm friends in Ottawa. Mr. Pollock was recently honored with a commission as major, I. N. G., and assigned as special aid on Gov. Culhoun's staff.

Hon. P. C. Hayes will please accept our thanks for a copy of the Congressional Directory—an interesting as well as valuable and useful document lately issued from the government printing office.

### Professor Butler.

Pursuant to the notice in our last, Professor James D. Butler, of the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, delivered a lecture at the Opera House on Wednesday evening, under the auspices of the Ottawa Academy of Sciences. The lecture was in several respects a remarkable one. The subject was remarkable for a promiscuous audience, being the importance of keeping a commonplace book; and the treatment of it was remarkable, for, certainly, for such an audience, it would be difficult to conceive a dryer topic, and yet it was treated in a way to amuse and delight by a constant succession of bright thoughts, shrewd suggestions and brilliant flashes of humor, while at no time he departed from a legitimate adherence to his theme. Perhaps the strongest argument of all in favor of such an *index rerum* was the manifest good use the professor had made of his own.

The professor had come here as the guest of the Academy of Sciences, being entertained by its officers, and delivered his lecture gratuitously. His real object in coming to Ottawa was to visit Starved Rock and examine the topography of a region whose historical associations have for a long time engaged his earnest research and study. The visit to Starved Rock was made on Tuesday, in boats, in company with Col. Hitt, W. K. Stewart, and a representative of the FREE TRADER. There is nothing new to be said in regard to Starved Rock to the readers of the FREE TRADER, as that to all of them, with its interesting associations, is old and familiar ground. The interest to our representative in the trip consisted wholly in the enjoyment of the company and conversation of a gentleman so notable for his vast general information and of such exceptionally fine social qualities. The professor is indeed a remarkable man. There is apparently no mine of thought that he has not explored, and no land that he has not visited, from the frozen arctic regions to the burning sands of Africa; from Pembina to Patagonia, or from China to California; and being a man of acute observation, he seems to have carefully treasured all he noted in his ever present and facile "common-place book." He had never before seen Starved Rock, but his intimacy with all its historical associations was such that the whole locality seemed to him like an open book, and even to a man like Col. Hitt, who has owned and lived on the ground for 40 years, he could impart new historical facts. The day happened to be beautiful and the professor seemed so greatly to enjoy the visit, that he threatens to renew it in summer.

The announcement that Rev. Mr. Stronberg would review some of Bob Ingersoll's utterances on religion, at the M. E. Church, on last Sunday evening, brought out a large audience. There was but one objection to the sermon. The Reverend gentleman said, or intimated, that it was impossible to argue with Ingersoll because Ingersoll did not argue. Then why this sermon? However, he took up a few of Bob's dogmas and handled them ably, showed up Bob's lack of logic, or, when he did use it, the bad logic, and like Whaceley in his reply to Hunt, answered him in kind—with happy effect. The fact is, we believe no minister can reply successfully to Ingersoll without loss of pulpity dignity and respect from Bob's style of "arguing;" but so far as it is possible, Mr. Stronberg's effort was clever and successful. He will finish the talk on the subject on to-morrow—Sunday—evening.

THE IRISH WORLD, New York, on the 4th inst., published an Emmet's Centennial number, containing a full history of the Great Irish patriot, the details of his trial before Lord Norbury in 1865 at the Sessions House in Dublin, and his great speech on that occasion, together with sketches of other notable men with whom he was connected in that *emblem*. The number is elaborately illustrated by a dozen or more finely executed engravings of Emmet and the Court that tried him, the Irish parliament house, &c. We can imagine no reading matter more interesting to every true Irishman as well as liberty loving American.

### "Riordan's Beat."

Riordan's beat is a "bad" place. It contains more solid cussedness to the square foot than any other policeman's beat in America. All the fights occur on Riordan's beat; all the drunks are on Riordan's beat; all the foot-pads operate on Riordan's beat;—it beats the "old Larry," this beat.

Leahy, on Saturday night, was robbed on Columbus St., near the square—on Riordan's beat.

The other night P. K. Leland was going home, up Columbus street, and when at the meat market, at Superior street, met two parties who wanted to go to the C. B. & Q. crossing. He tried to explain the way, but they could not or would not understand; so finally he said they could come with him. Then it struck him that they might be after his money rather than the railroad crossing; so, on reaching Kennedy's across the canal, he attempted to dodge in, but they prevented him, whereupon he took to his heels and "skipped out" through the mud, and escaped. All on Riordan's beat.

On Saturday night Riordan's shoe shop, on Main street, was robbed—Riordan's beat.

One night this week Alfred Taylor, of the Supreme Court Clerk's office, was going home rather late. Stepping on Madison street bridge, two gents stepped on from the other side; he changed his pathway, they changed theirs; he drew his revolver and walking up to the gents and showing the instrument under one's nose, asked him what he wanted. The fellow said he was "looking for a friend, but thought he (Taylor) wasn't the man." All on Riordan's beat!

On Wednesday the Times was served with a landlord's notice to quit. Oh, wretched landlord! and is it thus you treat the "unsoldable press?" Oh, villainous age! O, traitors! O, wretches! And all on Riordan's beat! Verily Riordan's beat beareth the red ribbon, for no man is safe!

The Democrat says that up to last Tuesday night 881 citizens of La Salle had signed the temperance pledge. It bars out even cider. The same paper says that it is estimated that the falling off in the consumption of beer since the ribbon movement has exceeded 25 kegs a week, to say nothing of the decrease in whisky, cider etc., that has been drunk.